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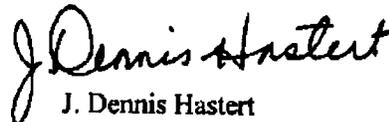
Dear Mr. Secretary:

This will authorize the Honorable Roy Blunt, House Majority Whip, to lead a delegation of Members and staff to Colombia and El Salvador on official business during the period of June 11-14, 2004. The purpose of the trip is to discuss trade agreements with Central America and the Andean region as well as the ongoing financial commitment of the United States to "Plan Colombia" and broader counter-narcotics policy. A list of those Members and staff authorized to travel will be forthcoming. For purposes of protocol, spouses of Members will travel at no cost to the government.

It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense would furnish such assistance as is necessary, including ground transportation, to facilitate the delegation as well as Air Force escort and military transportation. Authorization for the expenditure of funds should be made pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1108(g).

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

cc: The Honorable Jeff Trandahl, Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

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